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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/460,806	12/14/1999	EUGENE M. LEE	K7565.0002/P002	2979

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EXAMINER
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OUELLETTE, JONATHAN P

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3629

DATE MAILED: 04/02/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

09/460,806

Applicant(s)

LEE, EUGENE M.

Examiner

Jonathan Ouellette

Art Unit

3629

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
  - If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
  - If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
  - Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 December 2002 and 26 January 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-24 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-24 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102*

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. **Claims 8-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Whitmyer, Jr. (US 6,049,801).**
3. As per independent Claim 8, Whitmyer discloses a computer implemented method for transacting an intellectual property annuity, maintenance or renewal fee payments, the method comprising: providing, responsive to docket data, information representative of one or more intellectual property matters and one or more fee payments associated therewith, wherein the fees include one or more of: annuity, maintenance or renewal fee payments; and in response to selection by a user of one or more of the intellectual property matters and associated one or more fee payments (Claim 15), initiating performance of the selected one or more fee payments, and substantially coincident with initiating thereof, initiating a payment transaction corresponding to the selected one or more fee payments between the user and an intellectual property annuity,

maintenance or renewal fee payment service (Abstract, fig.6, C7, L19-67, C8 L1-13, Claim 1-17).

4. As per Claim 9, Whitmyer discloses wherein the providing of information representative of one or more intellectual property matters and associated one or more fee payments, and the initiating performance of the selected fee payments are performed by the intellectual property annuity, maintenance or renewal fee payment service.
5. As per Claim 10, Whitmyer discloses wherein at least the providing of information representative of one or more intellectual property matters and associated one or more fee payments is performed by an intermediary separate from the intellectual property annuity, maintenance or renewal fee payment.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

6. **The initial rejection of Claims 1-24 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Brown, Pinnisi & Michaels, PC (BPM) in view of InventNet is withdrawn due to applicant's arguments.**
7. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:
  - (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.
8. **Claims 1, 4-7, 11-13, 15-19, 21, 22, and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Brown, Pinnisi & Michaels, PC**

([www.lightlink.com/bbm](http://www.lightlink.com/bbm), retrieved from Internet Archive Wayback Machine  
<[www.archive.org](http://www.archive.org)>, date range: 2/24/1998-2/18/1999) in view of InventNet  
([www.inventnet.com](http://www.inventnet.com), retrieved from Internet Archive WayBack Machine  
<[www.archive.org](http://www.archive.org)>, date range: 12/3/1998-2/9/1999).

9. As per independent Claim 1, BPM discloses a computer implemented method for transacting an intellectual property service in connection with the filing of documents and/or payment of fees, the method comprising: providing a user with information representative of one or more intellectual property services and one or more fees associated therewith wherein the fees include one or more of: official fees, and service fees (pgs. 10-20).
10. BPM fails to expressly disclose automating the disclosed step: wherein in response to selection by a user of one or more of the intellectual property services, initiating performance of the selected one or more intellectual property services, and substantially coincident with performance thereof, transacting the associated one or more fees.
11. However, BPM discloses an intellectual property information service wherein the website outlines the fees associated with the application process (pgs.10-12) along with an outline of the steps required in the application process, to include an initial consultation, search, and application completion and filing (pgs. 10-12) - and it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to simple automate this process by completing the outlined steps electronically, to include an electronic consultation (wherein fees and schedules would be reviewed

and agreed upon) and by electronically supplying the necessary forms ( for completion of the intellectual property application process.

12. Furthermore, It was known at the time the invention was made, that merely providing an automatic means to replace a manual activity which accomplishes the same result is not sufficient to distinguish over the prior art, *In re Venner*, 262 F.2d 91, 95, 120 USPQ 193, 194 (CCPA 1958). For example, simply automating the step of initiating performance of the selected one or more intellectual property services, gives just what one would expect from the manual step as shown by BPM. In other words, there is no enhancement found in the claimed step other than the known advantage of increased speed. The end result is the same as compared to the manual method.
13. Therefore, It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to automate the step of performing the selected one or more intellectual property services, because this would speed up the performance step which is purely known and expected result from automation of what is known in the art.
14. BPM also fails to further show transmitting the proposed transactions to the customer over the Internet and the customer sending back over the Internet a notice either agreeing to the proposed transactions or not.
15. However, Official Notice is given that the advantage of communicating over the Internet for businesses to reach customers anywhere in the world, was well known at the time the invention was made.

16. It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to transmit the proposed transactions to the customer over the Internet and have the customer send back over the Internet a notice either agreeing to the proposed transactions or not because the advantage of communicating over the Internet allows a service provider to do business with customers anywhere in the world that has access to the Internet.
17. BPM also fails to disclose filing of documents and/or payment of fees relative to one or more target jurisdictions.
18. However, InventNet discloses the registration and selection of one or more target jurisdictions/agents (pg.7-9 and 11).
19. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have included one or more target jurisdictions as disclosed by InventNet in the system disclosed by BPM, for the advantage of providing a method of transacting an intellectual property service with the ability to widen customer services capabilities by offering intellectual property services in a multitude of jurisdictions (US and foreign).
20. As per Claim 4, BPM and Invent Net disclose presenting a user with one or more target jurisdictions and one or more respective associates for each of at least a portion of said target jurisdictions, wherein the fees associated with a particular one or ones of the intellectual property services are further particularized by target jurisdiction and/or said one or more respective associates.

21. As per Claim 5, BPM and Invent Net disclose automatically initiating the providing of information representative of one or more intellectual property services in response to a docket event for a particular intellectual property matter corresponding thereto.
22. As per Claim 6, BPM and Invent Net disclose retrieving information characterizing an intellectual property application corresponding to one or more intellectual property services from a data store; and calculating the associated one or more fees based on at least a portion of the intellectual property application information.
23. As per Claim 7, BPM and Invent Net disclose supplying information encoding the selected one or more intellectual property services and the associated one or more fees for use in an accounting system.
24. As per independent Claim 11, BPM discloses a method of operating an information service to facilitate fee transaction in connection with the filing of documents and/or payment of fees relating to intellectual property services, the method comprising: a computer readable encoding of fees for one or more intellectual property service performed by the associate therein (pgs.10-20); distributing information, and at least a portion of one or more associates registered therefore and corresponding fees, to a user for use in transacting at least one of the intellectual property services using a respective one or ones of the associates (pgs.10-20).
25. BPM fails to expressly disclose automating the step of performing and transacting at least one of the offered intellectual property services.
26. However, BPM discloses an intellectual property information service wherein the website outlines the fees associated with the application process (pgs.10-12) along



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with an outline of the steps required in the application process, to include an initial consultation, search, and application completion and filing (pgs. 10-12) - and it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to simple automate this process by completing the outlined steps electronically, to include an electronic consultation (wherein fees and schedules would be reviewed and agreed upon) and by electronically supplying the necessary forms ( for completion of the intellectual property application process.

27. Furthermore, It was known at the time the invention was made, that merely providing an automatic means to replace a manual activity which accomplishes the same result is not sufficient to distinguish over the prior art, *In re Venner*, 262 F.2d 91, 95, 120 USPQ 193, 194 (CCPA 1958). For example, simply automating the performance/transacting of the selected one or more intellectual property services, gives just what one would expect from the manual step as shown by BPM. In other words, there is no enhancement found in the claimed step other than the known advantage of increased speed. The end result is the same as compared to the manual method.

28. Therefore, It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to automate the step of performing/transacting the selected one or more intellectual property services, because this would speed up the performance step which is purely known and expected result from automation of what is known in the art.

29. BPM also fails to further show transmitting the proposed transactions to the customer over the Internet and the customer sending back over the Internet a notice either agreeing to the proposed transactions or not.
30. However, Official Notice is given that the advantage of communicating over the Internet for businesses to reach customers anywhere in the world, was well known at the time the invention was made.
31. It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to transmit the proposed transactions to the customer over the Internet and have the customer send back over the Internet a notice either agreeing to the proposed transactions or not because the advantage of communicating over the Internet allows a service provider to do business with customers anywhere in the world that has access to the Internet.
32. BPM also fails to disclose filing of documents and/or payment of fees relative to one or more target jurisdictions, to include registering for each of plural associates, at least one target jurisdiction.
33. However, InventNet discloses the registration and selection of one or more target jurisdictions/agents (pg.7-9 and 11).
34. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have included one or more target jurisdictions as disclosed by InventNet in the system disclosed by BPM, for the advantage of providing a method of transacting an intellectual property service with the ability to widen

customer services capabilities by offering intellectual property services in a multitude of jurisdictions (US and foreign).

35. As per Claim 12, BPM and Invent Net disclose wherein the distributing is responsive to selection by the user of one or more of the target jurisdictions and, for each selected target jurisdiction, a respective one or ones of the associates.
36. As per Claim 13, BPM and Invent Net disclose wherein the distributing includes supplying, on a periodic basis, to the user, of the computer readable encoding of fees.
37. As per independent Claim 15, BPM discloses an information system for transacting fees associated with intellectual property services in connection with the filing of documents and/or payment of fees, comprising: an intellectual property service portal, the intellectual property service portal responsive to a selection at the originating node of at least one intellectual property service, supplying the originating node with the information representative of one or more fees corresponding to the selected at least one intellectual property service (pgs.10-20).
38. BPM fails to expressly disclose automating the disclosed step: wherein in response to selection by a user of one or more of the intellectual property services, initiating performance of the selected one or more intellectual property services, and substantially coincident with performance thereof, transacting the associated one or more fees.
39. However, BPM discloses an intellectual property information service wherein the website outlines the fees associated with the application process (pgs.10-12) along with an outline of the steps required in the application process, to include an initial

consultation, search, and application completion and filing (pgs. 10-12) - and it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to simple automate this process by completing the outlined steps electronically, to include an electronic consultation (wherein fees and schedules would be reviewed and agreed upon) and by electronically supplying the necessary forms ( for completion of the intellectual property application process.

40. Furthermore, It was known at the time the invention was made, that merely providing an automatic means to replace a manual activity which accomplishes the same result is not sufficient to distinguish over the prior art, *In re Venner*, 262 F.2d 91, 95, 120 USPQ 193, 194 (CCPA 1958). For example, simply automating the step of initiating performance of the selected one or more intellectual property services, gives just what one would expect from the manual step as shown by BPM. In other words, there is no enhancement found in the claimed step other than the known advantage of increased speed. The end result is the same as compared to the manual method.
41. Therefore, It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to automate the step of performing the selected one or more intellectual property services, because this would speed up the performance step which is purely known and expected result from automation of what is known in the art.
42. BPM also fails to further show transmitting the proposed transactions to the customer over the Internet and the customer sending back over the Internet a notice either agreeing to the proposed transactions or not.

43. However, Official Notice is given that the advantage of communicating over the Internet for businesses to reach customers anywhere in the world, was well known at the time the invention was made.
44. It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to transmit the proposed transactions to the customer over the Internet and have the customer send back over the Internet a notice either agreeing to the proposed transactions or not because the advantage of communicating over the Internet allows a service provider to do business with customers anywhere in the world that has access to the Internet.
45. BPM also fails to disclose filing of documents and/or payment of fees relative to one or more target jurisdictions - corresponding to associates licensed or otherwise authorized to perform intellectual property services in one or more target jurisdictions.
46. However, InventNet discloses the registration and selection of one or more target jurisdictions/agents (pg.7-9 and 11).
47. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have included registering one or more target jurisdictions as disclosed by InventNet in the system disclosed by BPM, for the advantage of providing a method of transacting an intellectual property service with the ability to widen customer services capabilities by offering intellectual property services in a multitude of jurisdictions (US and foreign).

48. As per Claim 16, BPM and Invent Net disclose wherein for a particular selected target jurisdiction and associate combination, the one or more fees include: one or more official fees for an intellectual property filing in the particular selected target jurisdiction; and one or more service fees of the selected associate for performing the selected at least one intellectual property service.
49. As per Claim 17, BPM and Invent Net disclose wherein the originating node includes a computer of the managing attorney or intellectual property owner; and wherein the target nodes include computers of respective associates configured to electronically receive at least partial instructions concerning an intellectual property filing from the managing attorney or intellectual property owner via the intellectual property service portal.
50. As per Claim 18, BPM and Invent Net disclose wherein the originating node includes a web browser; wherein the intellectual property service portal includes a web server; wherein the selection of at least one intellectual property service, the supplying of the information representative of one or more fees, and the transacting of the one or more fees are achieved at least in part, using internet protocol traffic between the web browser and the web server.
51. As per Claim 19, BPM and Invent Net disclose wherein the intellectual property filing portal is further responsive to registration by the associates of information representative of one or more fees corresponding to the associate; wherein the supplied information representative of one or more fees include those registered by the selected associates.

52. As per independent Claim 21, BPM fails to expressly disclose automating a method (computer program product encoded in a computer readable medium) for translating an intellectual property service in connection with the filing of documents and/or payment of fees, the method: selection code executable to select from amongst one or more intellectual property services supported by one or more information services therefore and to initiate performance of the selected one or more intellectual property service; and fee transaction code executable to transact one or more fees associated with the selected one or more intellectual property services substantially coincident with performance of the one or more intellectual property services by a corresponding one or ones of the information services.

53. However, BPM discloses an intellectual property information service wherein the website outlines the fees associated with the application process (pgs.10-12) along with an outline of the steps required in the application process, to include an initial consultation, search, and application completion and filing (pgs. 10-12) - and it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to simple automate this process by completing the outlined steps electronically, to include an electronic consultation (wherein fees and schedules would be reviewed and agreed upon) and by electronically supplying the necessary forms ( for completion of the intellectual property application process.

54. Furthermore, It was known at the time the invention was made, that merely providing an automatic means to replace a manual activity which accomplishes the same result is not sufficient to distinguish over the prior art, *In re Venner*, 262 F.2d 91, 95, 120

USPQ 193, 194 (CCPA 1958). For example, simply automating the step of initiating performance of the selected one or more intellectual property services, gives just what one would expect from the manual step as shown by BPM. In other words, there is no enhancement found in the claimed step other than the known advantage of increased speed. The end result is the same as compared to the manual method.

55. Therefore, It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to automate the step of performing the selected one or more intellectual property services, because this would speed up the performance step which is purely known and expected result from automation of what is known in the art.
56. BPM also fails to further show transmitting the proposed transactions to the customer over the Internet and the customer sending back over the Internet a notice either agreeing to the proposed transactions or not.
57. However, Official Notice is given that the advantage of communicating over the Internet for businesses to reach customers anywhere in the world, was well known at the time the invention was made.
58. It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to transmit the proposed transactions to the customer over the Internet and have the customer send back over the Internet a notice either agreeing to the proposed transactions or not because the advantage of communicating over the Internet allows a service provider to do business with customers anywhere in the world that has access to the Internet.



59. BPM also fails to disclose filing of documents and/or payment of fees relative to one or more target jurisdictions.
60. However, InventNet discloses the registration and selection of one or more target jurisdictions/agents (pg.7-9 and 11).
61. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have included one or more target jurisdictions as disclosed by InventNet in the system disclosed by BPM, for the advantage of providing a method of transacting an intellectual property service with the ability to widen customer services capabilities by offering intellectual property services in a multitude of jurisdictions (US and foreign).
62. As per Claim 22, BPM and Invent Net disclose wherein the selection code and the fee transaction code are all executable on a same processor.
63. As per independent Claim 24, BPM fails to expressly disclose automating a method (an intellectual property filing preparation system) in connection with preparing to file documents and/or to pay fees, comprising: means for selecting from amongst one or more intellectual property services to be performed; means for initiating performance of the selected one or more intellectual property services; and means for transacting fees substantially coincident with the performance of the selected one or more intellectual property services.
64. However, BPM discloses an intellectual property information service wherein the website outlines the fees associated with the application process (pgs.10-12) along with an outline of the steps required in the application process, to include an initial

consultation, search, and application completion and filing (pgs. 10-12) - and it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to simple automate this process by completing the outlined steps electronically, to include an electronic consultation (wherein fees and schedules would be reviewed and agreed upon) and by electronically supplying the necessary forms ( for completion of the intellectual property application process.

65. Furthermore, It was known at the time the invention was made, that merely providing an automatic means to replace a manual activity which accomplishes the same result is not sufficient to distinguish over the prior art, *In re Venner*, 262 F.2d 91, 95, 120 USPQ 193, 194 (CCPA 1958). For example, simply automating the step of initiating performance of the selected one or more intellectual property services, gives just what one would expect from the manual step as shown by BPM. In other words, there is no enhancement found in the claimed step other than the known advantage of increased speed. The end result is the same as compared to the manual method.
66. Therefore, It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to automate the step of performing the selected one or more intellectual property services, because this would speed up the performance step which is purely known and expected result from automation of what is known in the art.
67. BPM also fails to further show transmitting the proposed transactions to the customer over the Internet and the customer sending back over the Internet a notice either agreeing to the proposed transactions or not.

68. However, Official Notice is given that the advantage of communicating over the Internet for businesses to reach customers anywhere in the world, was well known at the time the invention was made.
69. It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to transmit the proposed transactions to the customer over the Internet and have the customer send back over the Internet a notice either agreeing to the proposed transactions or not because the advantage of communicating over the Internet allows a service provider to do business with customers anywhere in the world that has access to the Internet.
70. BPM also fails to disclose filing of documents and/or payment of fees relative to one or more target jurisdictions.
71. However, InventNet discloses the registration and selection of one or more target jurisdictions/agents (pg.7-9 and 11).
72. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have included one or more target jurisdictions as disclosed by InventNet in the system disclosed by BPM, for the advantage of providing a method of transacting an intellectual property service with the ability to widen customer services capabilities by offering intellectual property services in a multitude of jurisdictions (US and foreign).
73. **Claims 2, 3, 14, 20, and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being unpatentable over BPM in view of InventNet.**

74. As per Claim 2, BPM and InventNet does not expressly show wherein the intellectual property services include one or more of paying an annuity of maintenance fee, making an intellectual property filing on behalf of the user, and preparing and/or filing target jurisdiction-specific and associate-specific form documents for directing and or effecting the filing and/or payment thereof.
75. However these differences are only found in the nonfunctional descriptive material and are not functionally involved in the steps recited. The intellectual property service transaction system would be performed regardless of the type of intellectual property service offered. Thus, this descriptive material will not distinguish the claimed invention from the prior art in terms of patentability, *see In re Gulack*, 703 F.2d 1381, 1385, 217 USPQ 401, 404 (Fed. Cir. 1983); *In re Lowry*, 32 F.3d 1579, 32 USPQ2d 1031 (Fed. Cir. 1994).
76. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to offer intellectual property services to include one or more of paying an annuity of maintenance fee, making an intellectual property filing on behalf of the user, and preparing and/or filing target jurisdiction-specific and associate-specific form documents for directing and or effecting the filing and/or payment thereof, because such data does not functionally relate to the steps in the method claimed and because the subjective interpretation of the data does not patentably distinguish the claimed invention.

77. As per Claim 3, BPM and InventNet does not expressly show wherein the fee transacting includes one or more of authorizing a debit of deposit account, supplying an invoice, and processing the fee via a payment system.
78. However these differences are only found in the nonfunctional descriptive material and are not functionally involved in the steps recited. The intellectual property service transaction system would be performed regardless of the type of transaction used. Thus, this descriptive material will not distinguish the claimed invention from the prior art in terms of patentability, *see In re Gulack*, 703 F.2d 1381, 1385, 217 USPQ 401, 404 (Fed. Cir. 1983); *In re Lowry*, 32 F.3d 1579, 32 USPQ2d 1031 (Fed. Cir. 1994).
79. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to complete the system transaction by authorizing a debit of deposit account, supplying an invoice, and processing the fee via a payment system, because such data does not functionally relate to the steps in the method claimed and because the subjective interpretation of the data does not patentably distinguish the claimed invention.
80. As per Claims 14 and 23, BPM and InventNet does not expressly show wherein the distributing is encoded by or transmitted in at least one computer readable medium selected from the set of a disk, CD-ROM, tape or other magnetic, optical, or electronic storage medium in a network, wire line, wireless or other communications medium.

81. However these differences are only found in the nonfunctional descriptive material and are not functionally involved in the steps recited. The intellectual property service transaction system would be performed regardless of how the information is encoded/transmitted. Thus, this descriptive material will not distinguish the claimed invention from the prior art in terms of patentability, *see In re Gulack*, 703 F.2d 1381, 1385, 217 USPQ 401, 404 (Fed. Cir. 1983); *In re Lowry*, 32 F.3d 1579, 32 USPQ2d 1031 (Fed. Cir. 1994).
82. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to encode/transmit the information in at least one computer readable medium selected from the set of a disk, CD-ROM, tape or other magnetic, optical, or electronic storage medium in a network, wire line, wireless or other communications medium, because such data does not functionally relate to the steps in the method claimed and because the subjective interpretation of the data does not patentably distinguish the claimed invention.
83. As per Claim 20, BPM and InventNet does not expressly show wherein the network includes one or more of a packet switched network segment, a circuit switched network segment, a public network segment, a private network segment, a public switched telecommunications network segment, and a virtual private network.
84. However these differences are only found in the nonfunctional descriptive material and are not functionally involved in the steps recited. The intellectual property service transaction system would be performed regardless of what the network includes. Thus, this descriptive material will not distinguish the claimed invention from the

prior art in terms of patentability, *see In re Gulack*, 703 F.2d 1381, 1385, 217 USPQ 401, 404 (Fed. Cir. 1983); *In re Lowry*, 32 F.3d 1579, 32 USPQ2d 1031 (Fed. Cir. 1994).

85. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include one or more of a packet switched network segment, a circuit switched network segment, a public network segment, a private network segment, a public switched telecommunications network segment, and a virtual private network, because such data does not functionally relate to the steps in the method claimed and because the subjective interpretation of the data does not patentably distinguish the claimed invention.

#### ***Response to Arguments***

86. Applicant's arguments with respect to Claims 1-24 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

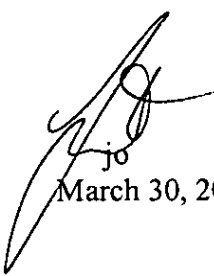
#### ***Conclusion***

87. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jonathan Ouellette whose telephone number is (703) 605-0662. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday, 8am - 4:30pm.

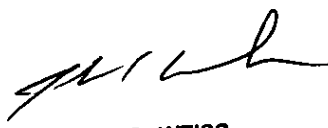
88. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Weiss can be reached on (703) 308-2702. The fax phone numbers

for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 305-7687 for regular communications and (703) 305-3597 for After Final communications.

89. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 306-5484.



March 30, 2004



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